

To: Direct Ophthalmologists & PCPs
From: Provider Relations
Date: August 7, 2026
Subject: **NEW: Upcoming Change to Authorization Process for Ophthalmology Services**

Effective September 14, 2026, IEHP Direct is launching a pilot to remove prior authorization (PA) requirements for certain low-acuity ophthalmological services and procedures with low denial rates.

Consult codes to facilitate connecting members to network ophthalmologists and ancillary items will still require a PA.

Why This Change?

IEHP is removing the PA requirements for *several* Ophthalmology codes to:

- ✓ Facilitate faster access to care – no more waiting for authorization to schedule services
- ✓ Begin alignment with expected industry changes in response to recent California legislation (Senate Bill 306 and Assembly Bill 512)

Who is Included in the Ophthalmology Pilot?

IEHP Direct Ophthalmologists and PCPs.

Does this apply to all IEHP Direct members?

This pilot includes all IEHP Direct Medi-Cal and DualChoice members.

How Does the Referral Process Change?

Please continue to submit referral requests for **all** services needed through IEHP's secure Portal. Upon submission, a report can be viewed or printed that indicates which services require no authorization and those pending the current review process.



The new part: **instant decisions for services that don't require PA.**

We will provide more details, including screenshots, in the upcoming weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact the IEHP Provider Call Center at (909) 890-2054, (866) 223-4347 or email ProviderServices@iehp.org

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